

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for providing post-call announcements to a called party, the system
2 comprising:

3 a network switch for routing a call to a called party and playing a post-call
4 announcement to the called party;

5 a database storing information for use in determining whether a post-call
6 announcement is to be played to the called party upon termination of the call; and

7 means to couple to a network for transmitting the call and the post-call
8 announcement to the called party.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the network switch includes an announcement
2 frame for playing the post-call announcement to the called party.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the network switch forwards information related
2 to at least one of the calling party and the called party to the database.

1 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the database receives information from the
2 network switch and queries the database based on the received information to determine which
3 post-call announcement, if any, is to be played to the called party.

1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the database returns to the network switch an
2 indication of a particular post-call announcement to be played.

1 6. An apparatus for providing post-call announcements to a called party, the
2 apparatus comprising:

3 a database for storing information for use in determining whether a post-call
4 announcement is to be played to the called party upon termination of the call;

5 an announcement frame for playing a particular post-call announcement to the
6 called party; and

7 wherein the database returns an announcement number to the announcement
8 frame indicating the particular post-call announcement to be played to the called party.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the database maintains a communication
2 connection to the announcement frame.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the announcement frame is implemented in a
2 network switch.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein a null announcement number indicates that no
2 post-call announcement is played to the called party.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the database counts how many times a post-call
2 announcement is played for a given set of selection criteria.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the announcement frame ceases to play a
2 particular post-call announcement after the particular post-call announcement has been played to
3 the called party three times.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein a terminating switch notifies the database of an
2 outcome of the post-call announcement.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the outcome relates to whether the called
2 party was connected for the duration of the announcement.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the announcement frame plays a particular
2 post-call announcement until the terminating switch determines that the called party maintains a
3 connection to the network for the entire duration of the particular post-call announcement.

1 15. A method of providing post-call announcements to a called party, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 receiving a call request from a calling party to a called party;
4 passing call attribute information to a database;
5 performing a look-up query at the database based on the call attribute information;
6 transmitting an announcement indication to an announcement frame;
7 routing a call to the called party;
8 determining whether the calling party has disconnected from the call; and
9 playing a particular post-call announcement, if any, to the called party when the
10 calling party has disconnected from the call.

1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
2 ceasing billing of the calling party once the calling party has disconnected from
3 the call prior to playing the particular post-call announcement; and
4 disconnecting the called party from the call.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the steps are performed in the order listed.

1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of routing a call to the called party is
2 performed in parallel with the step of passing of the call attribute information to the database.

1 19. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
2 counting how many times a particular post-call announcement is played for a
3 given set of selection criteria; and
4 ceasing to play the particular post-call announcement after the particular post-call
5 announcement has been played a predetermined number of times.

1 20. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
2 determining whether the called party is connected to the network for an entire
3 duration of a particular post-call announcement; and
4 continuing to play the particular post-call announcement until the called party is
5 connected to the network for the entire duration of the particular post-call announcement.

1 21. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of transmitting is performed by an
2 announcement frame located within a network switch.

1 22. The method of claim 15, wherein the call attribute information comprises at least
2 a portion of a calling party number.

1 23. The method of claim 15, wherein the call attribute information comprises at least
2 a portion of a called party number.

1 24. The method of claim 15, wherein the call attribute information comprises at least
2 a portion of a Carrier Identification Code.

1 25. The method of claim 15, wherein the call attribute information comprises at least
2 one trunk group characteristic.

1 26. The method of claim 15, wherein the call attribute information comprises
2 Originating Line Information.

1 27. The method of claim 15, wherein the call attribute information includes at least
2 two of: a calling party number portion, a called party number portion, a Carrier Identification
3 Code, a trunk group characteristic, and Originating Line Information.